

**MINUTES  
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

**Next Meeting:**

September 14, McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Members present: Ted Mendoza, Maggie Sullivan, Cynthia Schultz, Paul Schneller, Toby Strout, Heidi Russell Wagner, Bill Brown, Andy Davis, Matt Laherty, Dave Rollo

Regrets: Melissa Clark, David Parkhurst, George Huntington

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

No members of the public were present.

**Announcements:** IUOS Intern Symposium is Friday, 11:30—still time to sign up.

Hoosier to Hoosier sale—August 21—volunteers still needed.

Bioneers conference—hasn't happened last couple of years. Bill will follow up with Lucille Bertuccio to see if there are plans to revive this in the future.

Green News Network: working on prototype website. Call out for submissions to newsletter will go out soon.

Dave Rollo—attended the Illinois Renewable Energy Conference in IL. Pointed out that Bloomington would be an ideal location for a conference like this.

Dave also dropped off the Peak Oil Task Force Report in Madison, WI—thinks it's important to get communities all over the region to start thinking about peak oil. This will create opportunities for us to work regionally

**Approval of the minutes:** The minutes from the July 2010 meeting were approved.

**Presentation by Brita Pagels, Mike Davidson from ICLEI**

Brita gave a short overview of ICLEI programs and mission.

- Focus on measurable improvements
- Global reach; 600 member governments in the US
- Have developed regional support network
- 3 primary focus areas: climate change mitigation and adaptation, and sustainability performance

How do they help members succeed? Network, toolkits, trainings, policy and communications assistance, decision support, emissions analysis, software

Have also developed a 5 milestone process: inventory, set goals, develop action plan, implement, evaluate

Are working on a STAR Community Index—consensus-based framework for measuring sustainability and livability. Team of ~130 experts, split between 3 pillars of sustainability, working to develop metrics.

Mike Davidson—plugged ICLEI's Local Action Summit.

Q&A:

*Can commission members access the ICLEI website?* Volunteers can use Jacqui's membership information. Bloomington's membership costs \$1200/year.

*How does ICLEI verify results?* It doesn't—it just provides tools so that members can do this themselves. Also aggregate/track findings of members.

*What is the status of the STAR Community Index?* Expect to have pilot version available in a couple of months. Bloomington is on the list of pilot communities.

*Will the STAR Index go through an ANSI-type standard organization?* Yes—Brita will follow up with Jacqui to let her know which one.

STAR will be set up as a LEED-like rating system. Sustainability is viewed as an ongoing process rather than a single end goal.

*How many indicators will there be?* Still in development, but anticipate 5 indicators for each of the 16 categories.

Jacqui shared her username and password with all commissioners; Cynthia encouraged all to explore the website and the tools available.

#### **Update on STAR data collection and committee reports:**

Melissa from Water Committee sent an update—updated pollutant data from Utilities.

Andy will have transportation data early next week.

- Discussed possibly changing the alternative fuel metric to a rating of fuel effectiveness—gallons burned per rider, for example.

Hoping to have most of our data updated by the end of August.

Cynthia has identified info needed from the city on energy usage.

*Energy:* committee met just prior to BCOS meeting. The 4 indicators relevant to the energy committee were assigned to members for follow up. Will plan to have updates and an outline for their section by the next meeting.

Possible initiatives for energy:

- A tree planting initiative (Andy will follow up with Tree Commission, Urban Forester)
- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energy co-op

The group will contact other local groups involved with these topics and see if there are initiatives we can contribute to.

Next meeting for the committee—September 14, 11:30 at the Bakehouse

*Food:* committee met and identified a few initiatives

- Possible food initiative focused on low-income/vulnerable members of the community—eg train people to train additional people; 100,000 sf of new gardens by 2011

Maggie suggested including Michael Simmons in Parks in the discussions.

Dave R. interested in acting on a food security resolution—seed banks, root cellars, etc.

For STAR report—make sure to include source appendix in next version.

Matt also suggested more charts and tables to illustrate the data—asked commissioners to flag any data that would work well graphically.

Heidi also asked members to share any spatial data they have.

*Water:* Cynthia got updated info from Melissa

*Communications:* met to discuss Green News Network; are working with a web designer who has placed the website ([www.gnmbloomington.com](http://www.gnmbloomington.com)) on her server for free. The site will include a calendar and a number of other features.

Jacqui gave an update on her activities, including the Hoosier to Hoosier Sale, coming up on August 21; her work in getting rainbarrels for Showers; and Team Platinum (the internal counterpart for the Platinum Bike Task Force).

Cynthia mentioned that the STAR committee met with part of the Environmental Commission to discuss the possibility of merging the STAR effort with the EC's BEQI—possibly creating one sustainability report.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40.